

OCT 23 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director/Intelligence

THROUGH: Assistant Director, Research and Reports

SUBJECT: Trip Report of [REDACTED], RR/GG/H
Alaska, 25 September - 9 October 1956

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I. Purpose of Trip

A. To attend the Seventh Alaska Science Conference held in Juneau, Alaska, 26-30 September 1956, for the purpose of contacting persons concerned with Alaskan and arctic problems and through them and the papers presented to learn of current investigations on such problems.

B. To become acquainted with the governmental offices in Juneau, Fairbanks, and Anchorage and to distinguish between activities of Federal and Territorial agencies.

C. To obtain information on programs and projects being conducted in the Territorial offices; to review similar work being done in Federal offices.

D. To visit the University of Alaska, including its Geophysical Institute, in College Alaska.

E. To procure maps and publications of geographical interest in all places visited.

II. Activities and Findings

A. The Seventh Alaska Science Conference was sponsored by the Alaska Division, American Association for the Advancement of Science; the Alaska Section, American Society of Civil Engineers; and the Alaska Chapter, Society of American Foresters. Technical sessions covered a wide range of topics in Sections on Agriculture, Anthropology, Biology, Engineering, Fisheries, Forestry, Geology and Geography, Geophysics, Medicine and Public Health, and the Social Sciences.

B. Attendance at various sessions of the Conference was extremely worthwhile and informative. Representatives from all branches of the government in Alaska, as well as personnel from the University and many private organizations, were present. The military bases in Alaska were well represented by scientific personnel, and several papers also were read by persons from military research units in the United States. Professional representatives came from a wide variety of agencies and organizations in the United States and Canada.

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C. Two field trips were conducted to areas of geological and geographical interest. The Mendenhall Glacier, terminating within 10 miles of Juneau, was of particular interest and was observed from several vantage points.

D. Within time limitations, governmental offices of pertinence were visited in Juneau, including:

The Alaska Resource Development Board
The Northwest-North America Project
Fish and Wildlife Service
Alaska Department of Mines
U.S. Bureau of Mines Laboratory
Alaska Historical Library and Museum

E. Fairbanks and Anchorage were visited for 2½ days each. In Fairbanks the Chief Topographic Engineer of the U.S. Geological Survey in Alaska was especially helpful. One full day was spent at the University of Alaska, 4 miles outside Fairbanks, and several department Heads were consulted regarding programs and research underway. In Anchorage the Arctic Health Research Laboratory was visited; in addition, officials in the U.S. Public Health Service were contacted regarding work among the natives. Bookstores and libraries were visited in both cities.

III. Problems or Difficulties

No significant problems or difficulties were encountered during the trip.

IV. Commitments

No commitments were made which in any way involve CIA. Various offices are sending materials to the Special Assistant for Maps, Department of State, and follow-up correspondence will be made from that office to several of the contacts established.

V. Recommendations

A. Attendance for professional personnel is highly recommended at meetings, such as the Alaska Science Conference, that are known to be of high substantive merit. The benefits which accrue from such contacts are of continuing value and often provide opportunities that are extremely difficult to achieve through other channels.

B. It is strongly recommended that some adequate cover story be devised for general use by CIA personnel on completely overt missions. Why not create some ambiguous-sounding agency - such as an Inter-Agency Bureau of Plans and Programming - , give it a listing in the city phone book with an outside line feeding into an office which could process any calls, and let employees describe their jobs in the most appropriate

fashion under given circumstances? This would be far superior to claims of working in the Departments of Defense or State, about which most CIA employees know too little to come up with intelligent and convincing tales. Previous experience enabled me on this trip to fabricate a very plausible government connection, but I do not believe that the employee should be obligated to devise his own cover. The Cover Branch advised me what not to say, but did not have a clear-cut answer of what I should say. Surely after more than 10 years, CIA should have some standard "front" so that this problem does not loom up anew each time an overt employee sets out on a trip.

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Chief, Western Hemisphere Branch
Geography Division, ORR